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fall 1989

WBWC

FALL 1989 PROGRAM GUIDE

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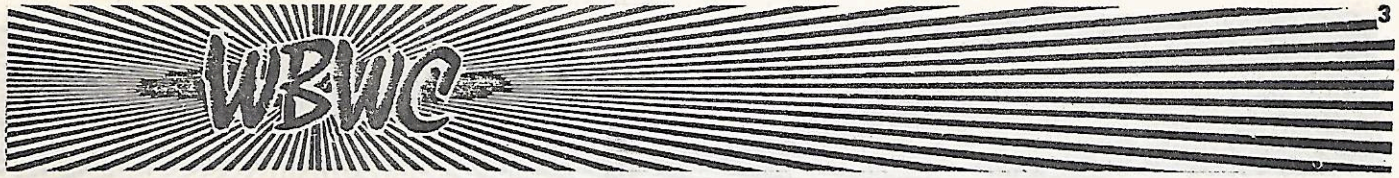

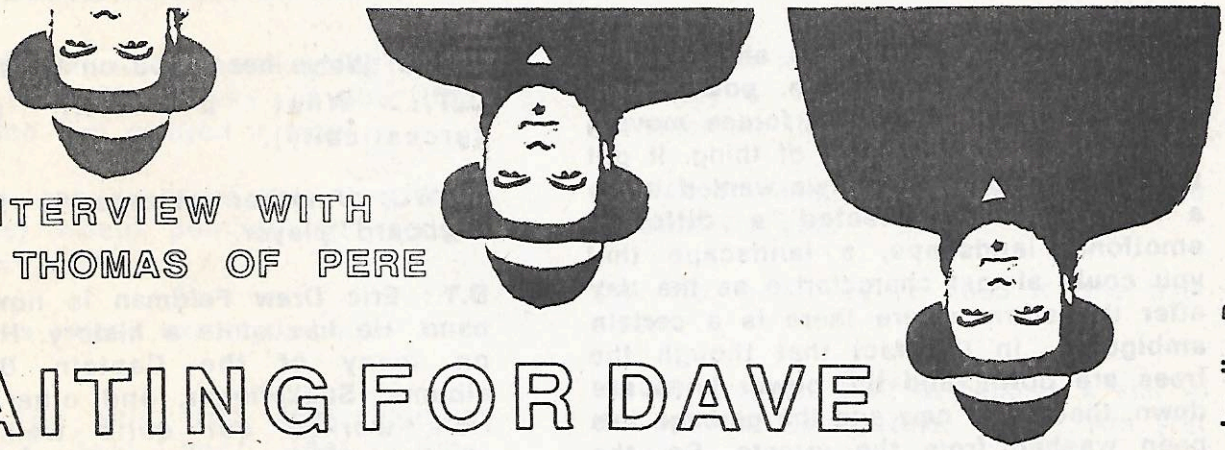

AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID THOMAS OF PERE UBU

WAITING FOR DAVE

by Jim Benson

I first met David after a solo show at Peabody's Down Under (or was it Pirate's Cove?). He was overly polite, which left a doubt in my mind as to whether he believed I hosted a Local Artist show or not. That doubt kept me from contacting him for an interview for the show. Then, in 1984, his manager contacted me about an interview. I let John Basalla (Senior Consultant at WBWC) handle the interview. He did a superb job. The next opportunity, though, I handled it myself. I learned he's always punctual, extremely polite, and very personable. I now regret that I didn't do that first interview. This article contains part of my fourth interview with David Thomas. He was forty-five minutes late this time, the price of fame, I suppose, but WELL worth the wait. As Pere Ubu's popularity continues to increase, I'm sure David's sincerity will do nothing but increase his appeal to BW88 listeners.

There's no doubt in my mind that when David Thomas says he'll always have time to WBWC, he means it.

WBWC: Another Lp, another tour in the works, I guess we should start where we left off when you were recording the *CLOUDLAND* Lp, and it's on a new label. Why the switch?

D.T.: The switch... Aaah, Polygram just wanted in on it because our parent company is Polygram in London and we're on Phonogram in the rest of the world and North America, for this album, wanted to get involved, and Enigma very graciously backed out of the contract with us for the sake of our careers.

WBWC: *CLOUDLAND* marks something new for the band, an outside producer.

D.T.: Steven Hague, who has produced a number of things and he's known for making hits for the Pet Shop Boys, Communards, New Order, and a bunch of other things. He has always been a big fan of ours and he approached us in London, wanted to get involved, and basically said that because he had been a fan so long that he just wanted to work with us and he thought he could preserve what we do at the same time as well as putting a different perspective to it.

WBWC: That new perspective is the commercialization of the band. Have you had any problems with some of the older fans saying that this is Pere Ubu selling out?

D.T.: No, I would hesitate to describe it as Commercialization. I think it's... you go into any record with an emotional goal, a landscape that you want to communicate. *TENEMENT YEAR's*

landscape was a lot like a storm in the night, trees crashing down, power lines going down, the elemental forces moving across the landscape sort of thing. It got time to do a new album, we wanted to do a record that reflected a different emotional landscape, a landscape that you could almost characterize as the day after the storm where there is a certain ambiguity in the fact that though the trees are down, and the power lines are down, the day is new and the garbage has been washed from the streets. So, the medium isn't the message, the point is YOU determine what you want to say and what emotional landscape you're dealing with, and you create the music to reflect it.

WBWC: "Waiting for Mary" has even appeared on WMMS. That has to be a major change.

D.T.: Obviously, there are a number of tracks that people find to be accessible, that we've already done three videos for the album. There've been two singles released in England and another single coming in England. It's very nice that people are finding it better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick.

WBWC: Speaking of Cleveland connections, there's a rumor you're moving back home from London.

D.T.: Yeah, I'm thinking of moving back to America. I'm not sure I'm moving back to Cleveland right away. I may go out to Pennsylvania for awhile, but yeah, I'm thinking of coming back.

WBWC: We'd welcome you back with open arms. You've become a star in the past two years; we've seen you on MTV.

D.T.: What a thrill (somewhat sarcastically).

WBWC: We've heard you on WMMS.

D.T.: What a thrill (equally sarcastically).

WBWC: Another change is the new keyboard player.

D.T.: Eric Drew Feldman is now in the band. He has quite a history. He played on many of the Captain Beefheart albums, Snakefinger, and other groups. He's worked out quite well. We've started writing the next album with him... I think he's contributed to some of the B-sides. Wine Dark Spots, I think, is the B-side to WFM and a couple of other B-sides will be his first recorded contributions.

WBWC: What about Alan (Ravenstein)?

D.T.: Alan couldn't stand the road any longer. He will, hopefully, continue to record with us, but he's certainly "off the road".

WBWC: Still an official member?

D.T.: Well there's no particular split with him...

WBWC: We finally have that long-awaited, or well-overdue, second release of live Pere Ubu...

D.T.:"One Man Drives While The Other Man Screams". Obviously it's from The Ballad of the Big O. The '60's (starts singing the old Lawson's O.J. commercial).

WBWC: I don't want to admit to knowing it (the commercial). Why so long to getting it released?

D.T.: I don't know. It took us a long time to compile it. It was compiled about two years ago and it took a long time for Rough Trade to get it together and print

it. And they decided it was going to be part of the CD reissue of the Ubu catalog, and that delayed it more.

WBWC: It was expected that they (live recordings) would pop out at regular intervals.

D.T.: It was indeed expected, but...

WBWC: You said from the stage of Peabody's last year that "Final Solution" would be laid to rest.

D.T.: It's officially laid to rest, but we've introduced a new segment to the show called "request time". If it gets significant requests, we've done it. We prefer to do some Ubu songs we kinda know and then we ask the audience specifically to ask us to do a song we don't know... We've ended up doing "Crystal Blue Persuasion", "Feelings" and a couple of others.

WBWC: "Sugar, Sugar"?

D.T.: No. This is not public humiliation hour, either (laughing). It's not in the spirit of the thing. It's not the point to make Ubu do something embarrassing.

WBWC: Whatever happened to the Japanese tour the band was planning?

D.T.: Well, we've never planned a Japanese tour. It's a perennial boon doggle. Each year they talk about us coming over there and each year something comes up and we don't do it. Something more pressing is there to do...

WBWC: This year? Next year?

D.T.: I don't know. If you want to know the truth, I don't want to do it. It's too far and I can't stand the idea of being cramped in a plane for about 84 hours. So they're really going to have to convince me that I want to do this.

WBWC: Traveling in a plane can't be too unusual for you.

D.T: No, but I try to keep it (the trip) short.

WBWC: Do you want to become a star in the vein of Springsteen, Sting? Are you prepared for that?

D.T.: Well, it's not a case of wanting it. We just continue to do what we do, and sometimes people like it... We only do what we know how to do. So we're in a swing now where all of a sudden people, or maybe things, have caught up to us or something.

WBWC: What's in the future?

D.T.: We're doing a long tour in the Fall... six weeks. Then another tour in February with another big Pop act, and then recording the next record starts sometime then. Steven Hague and us want to work together again. He has to finish the Robbie Robertson album, which should be done around the beginning of the year, and we'll hopefully start with him on our next album.

WBWC: The end for Paul (Herman)?

D.T.: Paul will still be involved. Steve always works very closely with the engineer. Paul will definitely be involved.

WBWC: It's getting harder to get a hold of you. We'll have to become groupies to get to talk to you.

D.T.: There's always room for B-W.

TO BE CONTINUED...SOMEDAY SOON.

Day Care at the Hit Factory

CLEVELAND ROCK FOCUS BY: JIM BENSON

There's a major event coming that may project one of Cleveland's most talented bands into the national spotlight. This band is *so* deserving that they know it's going to happen just like it has in their dreams. This band hasn't done any of the typical, mundane self-promoting that all the other bands in town do. They recorded their potential BillBoard-topping record in two days, and sent it to every record label they'd ever heard of and got letters of interest from every one of them. They know it's their turn. They are certain that this time next year they will be playing the stadium. You may know this band. It's probably the last one hundred bands you've seen.

I really don't want to whine about the laziness of local talent again, and I'm not going to mention any names because I just can't take the rejection. I won't tell them what they may be overlooking, even if I think they're mature enough to handle some constructive criticism and good enough to put it to use. Instead, I'll be as blatant as I can, and tell them what to do. I'll even hold their hands while I show them the way to super-stardom. But not on Fridays, that's when I'm on the air, playing *their* music.

Being the only disc-jockey continuously promoting Local original talent during the past decade hasn't been easy. Artists can be the biggest ulcer-causing-headaches ever imagined. Since I have absolutely *no* financial involvement with any band, club or agency, one would think that my job would be easy. It's not. And it's time that I blatantly train my passion.

If your band is ready to make its first or fortieth attempt at making it, here's what I suggest: get into a sixteen track studio and record five or six of your best songs with the help of an outside producer. Duplicate the best four on cassettes which are the same length as the material recorded. You can go to any local audio warehouse and special order these cassettes at very reasonable rates. You will be surprised at the high quality and low cost of the tapes.

Step 2: Make the packaging as professional as you can afford to. The more your work stands out from the other thousand or so received, the better the chances are that it will be listened to. Put your name, phone number and the titles of the songs on *every* item you send. This is very important, as press releases often get separated from demo tapes. A follow-up telephone call or postcard will put a little pressure on the reviewer to listen to your tape next.

Step 3: Hit every radio station and newspaper at the same time. Local bands are notorious for releasing in their home towns months before they attack the rest of the nation. If Cleveland is no longer reporting your song, why should someone in Los Angeles take you seriously? A good example of this is the recent hit single by Kevin Raleigh. (Please Kevin, believe me, I luv ya!)

WMMS had him in the Top 10 for over four weeks, but by the time the record company got around to promoting Kevin's single nationally, it was cooling here fast. As a result, Kevin's single only got as high as the middle fifties on the BillBoard Hot 100. Considering that

this single was written by an established team, it was expected to do much better than that, and it should have.

Step 4: Keep your name current, try to have a current release. Two each year is clearly reasonable. You may even want to consider putting a song on one of the several local compilations, just to keep your name in press. And always speak with anyone who shows interest regularly. Even false interest can be used to you advantage. If someone out of town asks you to send more material, send them something just before you are scheduled to play in their area. This works!

Step 5: *Tour!* Not just locally, go as far as Boston and Chicago on weekends. Record companies are now expecting bands to help create regional followings.

Step 6: Take advantage of every opportunity. If there is a possibility of becoming involved with individuals representing area bands at regional industry conferences (i.e. New Music Seminar, South By Southwest or the College Media Journal Seminar, etc...) do so. Industry representatives ask about bands they have had contact with and wonder why they are not represented.

Step 9: Do all of the above until you give up. This is a tough career choice. The failure rate is almost one hundred percent, so if you're the one to make it, it will take every ounce of courage you can muster to keep on track. If you do make it, I give you permission to think of me as an idiot. I would expect that from you. After all, even I didn't know all the steps to The Top.

Jim Benson has hosted BW 88's Local Artist Show for over seven years. The show has started its second decade on the air.

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FRI-SAT 11AM - 2 AM

AIRPORT FREEWAY & SHELDON

WBWC

Sunday

9:30 a.m.
Methodist Voice

10:00
Scripture Speaks

10:30
Crosswalk

11:00
Electric Cathedral
Travor Lutz

2:00
The Classics

5:00
Music From Interlochen

6:00
Con Artists

7:00
Golden Age of Rock & Roll
B.R. Anthony

10:00
Sunday Night at the Oldies
Tom Lamoreaux

12:30
Captain Tacky

1:00-3:00
In Fractured Silence
Susan Spurney

Monday

7:00 a.m.
Amok in the Morning
Tankman

9:30
American Energy Update

10:00
Renaissance
Sally Cumberland

12:30
Rock Talk

1:00
CMJ/RR Countdown
Aaron Burke

3:00
Renaissance
Dave Nose'

5:00
Renaissance
Nikki Krecji

7:00
Renaissance
John Rencher

9:00
Renaissance
Mike Molek

11:00
Soul Sounds
Claire Hussney

2:00-2:30
In Black America

Tuesday

7:00 a.m.
Amok in the Morning

9:30
New Voices

10:00
Renaissance
Susan Spurney

12:30
Soundings

1:00
Renaissance
Staff

3:00
Renaissance
Andrea Campbell

5:00
Renaissance
Lisa Tomak

7:00
Renaissance
B.C.

9:00
Renaissance
Vicky Cortez

11:00
World Beat
Mark Yasenchak

2:00-2:30
Across the Atlantic

Wed.

7:00 a.m.
Amok in the Morning

9:30
Voices of Our World

10:00
Renaissance
Staff

12:30
Student Senate

1:00
Renaissance
Staff

3:00
Renaissance
Eugene Homan

5:00
Renaissance
Mike Popik

7:00
Renaissance
Staff

9:00
Renaissance
Lenny Peralta

11:00
Techno-Pop Show
Trevor

2:00-2:30
Forum

REQUEST LINE 826-2187

WBWC

Thurs.

7:00 a.m.
Amok in the Morning

9:30
Science Journal

10:00
Renaissance
Susan Spurney

12:30
Cambridge Forum

1:00
Renaissance
Staff

3:00
Renaissance
Paula Morrison

5:00
Renaissance
Eric Eubanks

7:00
Renaissance
Wendy DeRigo

9:00
Renaissance
Tom Denison

11:00
Join in the Chant
Sharon Tracy

2:00
History of Astronomy

2:15-2:30
Modern Swedish Writers

Friday

7:00 a.m.
Amok in the Morning

9:30
Eternal Quest

10:00
Renaissance
Steve Dole

12:30
Thinking About Drinking

1:00
Renaissance
Traci Purdum

3:00
Renaissance
Dawn Jackson

5:00
Renaissance
John Henke

7:00
Local Artist Show
Jim Benson

9:00
Heavy Metal Attack
John Basalla

12:00
Avante-Garde
Evan Ford

2:00-2:30
American Montage

Sat.

7:00 a.m.
World Beat
Mark Yasenchak

9:00
Serbian Radio
Vlada Vukodinovic

1:00
Dimensions In Science

1:15
U.N.Perspective

1:30
Music View

2:00
Renaissance
Pete Naegle

5:00
City Club Forum

6:00
Jump Start
Lara, Pete & Evan

9:00
Rasta Review
Staff

12:00
Bug Radio

1:00-3:00
100 M.P.H.
Dr. Dom

Other Features

Christopher Minute; Daily at sign on and off

Newsdate 88
Mon-Fri at 9,1,3 5,7,,9,11,12

Family Health
Mon-Fri at 11:02

Byline
Mon-Fri 5:02 pm

God Squad
Mon-Fri 10:12pm

UPI Network News
Mon-Fri 12,2,4,6 8,10,12 pm,1,2, 3am, Sat 11am, 12,1,2,4,6,8,9, 10pm,12,1,2and 3am,Sun at 12,1, 2,7,8,9,10,11pm 12.1.2 and 3 am

Ohio Outdoor Notebook
Mon-Thur at 1:30 pm and Sat at 4:55 pm

On Stage
Mon-Fri at 2:30, 6:30,8:30,11:30 1:30am,Sat 2:30 8:30,11:30,1:30

REQUEST LINE 826-2187

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SHOW DESCRIPTIONS

AMERICAN ENERGY UPDATE
Weekly discussions of energy issues and pending energy legislation.-Mondays at 9:30 a.m.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC
A European news and features program produced by the German Broadcasting Company.-Wednesday mornings at 2 a.m.

IN BLACK AMERICA
This is a weekly interview program. John Hanson talks to leading Black scholars, entertainers and political figures. Each week, a different topic of importance to the Black community will be discussed.-Tuesday mornings at 2 a.m.

ROCK TALK
Interviews with leading New Music groups and individuals.-Mondays at 12:30 p.m.

STUDENT SENATE
Weekly meetings of BW's Student Senate. -Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

VOICES OF OUR WORLD
A program about the social problems and cultures of Third World nations. Produced by the Maryknoll Missionaries.-Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

CAMBRIDGE FORUM
Features segments from scholarly speeches given by leading educators, government officials and others on a wide variety of topics.-Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

DIMENSIONS IN SCIENCE
Produced by the American Chemical Society, *DIMENSIONS IN SCIENCE* is a wonderful science documentary series. It covers virtually every kind of scientific topic, from America's exploration of outer space to the latest developments in pain relief medicine.-Saturdays at 1 p.m.

CITY CLUB FORUM
A rebroadcast of the Friday afternoon address at the City Club in Cleveland.-Saturdays at 5 p.m.

SCIENCE JOURNAL
Each week, a different science topic is discussed. Like *DIMENSIONS IN SCIENCE*, this program deals with a wide variety of Science-related issues.-Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m.

METHODIST VOICE
Sermons from the United Methodist Church in Middletown, Ohio.-Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

SCRIPTURE SPEAKS
Short biblical teachings set to Gospel music.-Sundays at 10 a.m.

CROSSWALK
A contemporary Christian show that features interviews with artists and their music.-Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

CON ARTISTS
Recordings of B-W faculty and student concerts and recitals.- Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

STARDATE
A short, two minute per day astronomy show from the McDonald Observatory at the University of Texas at Austin.-Daily at 3:02, 7:02 p.m. and 2:30 a.m.

FAMILY HEALTH
Short discussions about health-related topics. Good advice is given which can be used every day.-Monday through Friday at 11:02 p.m.

WBWC

MOTHER EARTH NEWS
Help hints from the creators of *THE MOTHER EARTH NEWS* magazine.-Monday through Friday at 9:02 p.m.

BYLINE
Political commentary from both Liberal, Conservative and Libertarian viewpoints from the Cato Institute.-Monday through Friday at 5:02 p.m.

GOD SQUAD
Moral issues and thoughts discussed around a Pop music theme.-Monday through Friday at 10:12 p.m.

NASA SPACE STORY
The latest developments in space technology and upcoming NASA projects are discussed in this 15 minute documentary feature.-Late night Fridays at 11:55 p.m.

BEREA CITY COUNCIL
Live gavel to gavel coverage of Berea's City Council meetings.-First and third Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m.

SOUNDINGS
A public service and educational talk show.-Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 p.m.

SPORTS PULSE
Sports director Matt Underwood and the WBWC Sports Department highlight the week in sports on the local College level as well as on the Professional level.-Tuesdays at 6:05 p.m.

MUSIC FROM INTERLOCHEN
From the Interlochen Center for the Performing Arts at Interlochen, Michigan. This program features concert performances by students, faculty and professionals.-Sundays at 5 p.m.

FORUM
This program discusses academic topics as well as general current issues.

FORUM **is a weekly feature magazine investigating all facets in today's fast-paced society.-Thursday mornings at 2:00 a.m.**

HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY
A show which takes you back to the beginning of Time and talks about the stars, the Moon and all other aspects of Astronomy.-Thursdays at 12:30 p.m.

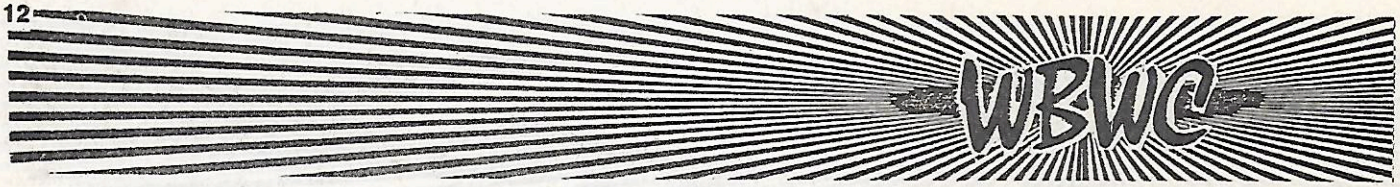
MODERN SWEDISH WRITERS
A 15 minute documentary on the lives of some of Sweden's greatest writers.-Early Wednesday mornings at 2:15 a.m.

BUG RADIO
Each week *BUG RADIO* will trace musical styles from around the World and show how they hit their present state. From Budapest to New Orleans; *BUG RADIO* will be there to cover the music scene.

Amok in the Morning
Now it can be told. The Todd Squad is anybody who drops in. This morning show is unpredictable. One moment... music. The next... more music! There is some humorous stuff sandwiched in. The Award-winning (No kidding!) *Amok in the Morning* show is controlled by Todd "Tankman" Lederman and he'll make sure you don't fall asleep in your sugary globs of simulated wheat product. Giveaways, requests, wild cookies... Never a dull morning. 7-10 a.m. weekdays. Listen to it... There's nothing good on T.V. anyway.

The Electric Cathedral
Christian Rock from Techno to Thrash, with a heavy emphasis on the up and coming Christian artists.

Join In The Chant
Music for the Working Class. Experimental Techno with a harder edge. Experience the Spectrum of Industrial Music. Feel the Energy. Join in the



Chant.-New day and time.-Thursday nights at 11:00 p.m.

The Techno Pop Show
Music for the 1990's and beyond. Hardcore Euro-dance music with the Techno beat.

100 M.P.H.
Dr. Dom plays the heaviest in Heavy Metal with special features such as live interviews with Cleveland's hottest Metal bands. The only Metal on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings from 1:00 to 3:00 a.m.

Heavy Metal Attack
The volume is always cranked and the guitars are always screaming.

Soul Sounds
It's hot and fresh, everything you ever wanted to hear from Soul, Rap, Funk and much, much more.-Monday nights at 11:00 p.m.

CMJ/R.R. Countdown
Each week, Aaron will bring you the Top 25 albums from the *COLLEGE MUSIC JOURNAL* or the hottest 25 albums as compiled from *RENAISSANCE RADIO* playlists. Be the first to call in with the correct #1 artist & song and win! Prizes will be announced weekly. So tune in every Monday from 1-3 p.m. for the hottest in College Music, okay?

The Golden Age Of Rock and Roll
B.R. Anthony has been playing the sounds of the '50's for 18 years. Catch the doo-wop to the bop with Cleveland's original *Golden Age of Rock and Roll.*

Sunday Night At the Oldies
The music of the '60's and '70's is featured with a special attraction of "John Basalla's Other Music Segment" which features forgotten or unheard of songs by a major talent of the '60's or '70's. In many cases these songs are better representations of their time period or era because the "Classic" songs you hear over and over again have a way of becoming good for many eras.

The Avante-Garde Show
Ahem. It's kind of like being, but wanting to *not* be in tension-related... No. Uh... Does 'Jandek' mean anything to you? If it does, then try to wade through the Dimension known only as *Avante-Garde* with your host and guide Evan Ford. Madness and chaos ensue late night Fridays from midnight until 2 a.m.

The Local Artist Show
Jim Benson interviews and highlights the North Coast's best Local talent.

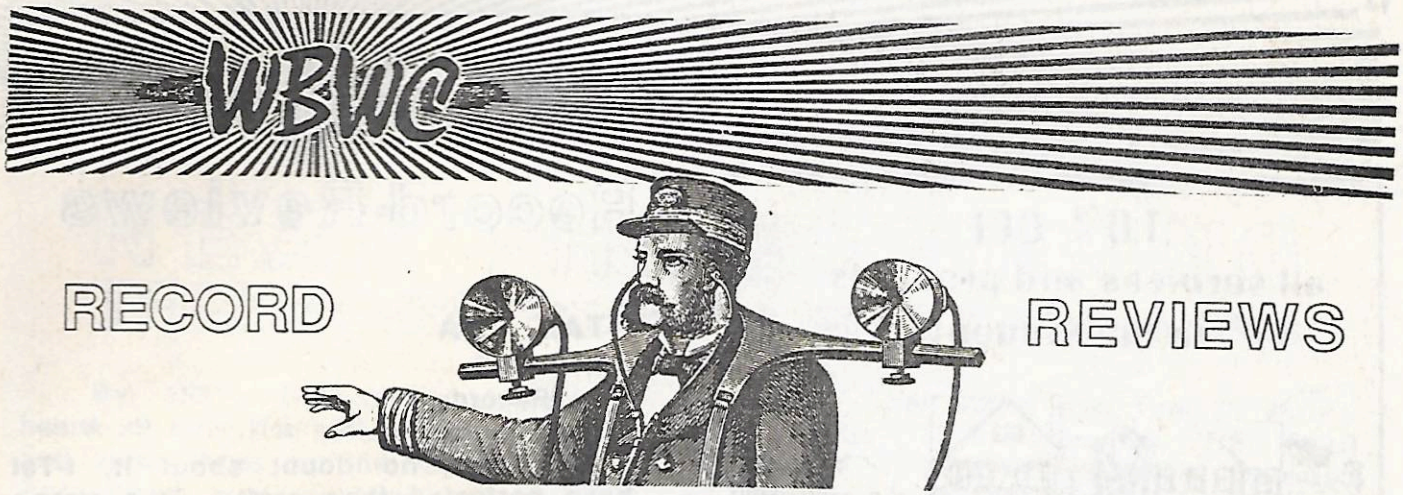
The Rasta Review
Reggae, Reggae, Reggae, Mon. Artists like Bob Marley and the now legendary Peter Tosh are featured for Saturday evening skankin'.

The Classics
Explore the wealth of Cultures in history's greatest Classical and innovative music.

In Fractured Silence
Sit back and relax as Susan Spurney guides you through the soothing, atmospheric sounds of New Age music. Featured are such bands as Harold Budd and Dead Can Dance.

World Beat
Music of the World is brought to you by your host Mark Yasenchak. Featured are artists from Africa, Asia and the Orient.-Saturdays at 7:00 a.m.

Jump Start
Before you hit the club scene, get into the groove and jump start your Saturday nights with the best in Alternative, House and Industrial Dance with Lara Boucher, Pete Naegle and Justin Cator. Tune in from 6-9 p.m. and preset your mind to dance all night long.



CHRISTOPHER LUKE
ASLEEP WITH THE TV ON
Hawk Dance Records

Christopher Luke has not been heard from since his "Reptiles" single in 1986. The wait was worth it. *ASLEEP* is full of rememberable melodies. The eight song cassette contains the local hit single "I Want To Believe In You". The song was co-written with Paul Fayrewether and features his band performing. Let's hope this collaboration continues. It works! The other selections contain a strong blend of Rock-n-Roll and acoustic guitars. Other standout tracks include "Young America", "Doesn't Matter To Him", "Hold Me Tonight" and "Day By Day". You may have to hit an independent record store to find this release, but it will be worth the trip...*Jim Benson.*

FAYREWETHER
POWER PLAY
No Records

Fayrewether's first CD release is classy. The cover depicts a terrorist looking at a picture of a politician (both are Paul Fayrewether in costume!) which explains the title. This is without a doubt the best release from this band to date. Fayrewether has been performing for over a decade and this may be their ticket to national recognition. Several stations are already airing the Christopher Luke/Paul Fayrewether collaboration, "I Want To Believe In You". This is just one of the many extraordinarily produced cuts. The opening synths on "Keep Me In Your Heart" set the stage for what is to follow. The amount of support this band has received from their fans is proof that their overnight sensation may be just around the corner...*Jim Benson.*

BAUHAUS
SWING THE HEARTACHE
THE BBC SESSIONS
Beggar's Banquet/RCA

RCA and Beggar's Banquet have released another compilation from the Bauhaus vault, five BBC radio sessions the boys did awhile back. Mixed in with standards like "Third Uncle" and "Three Shadows Pt. 2" are some great long-lost songs like "Departure" and "Party of the First Part", and even a surprising version of Bowie's "Ziggy Stardust", which gives the original a run for its' money!

For any of you Love & Rockets fans wishing to get hold of their older work, you can't start any earlier than when they were the Bauhaus. Led by former front-man Peter Murphy, they were the ultimate Gothic-rock band. Although the group disbanded in the early '80's and only stayed together for about five years, they left a lasting impression on the alternative music scene. Check 'em out...*Michele Merleno.*

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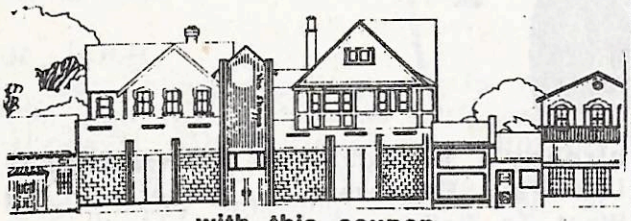

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Record Reviews

I-TAL USA
I-TAL USA
Play Records

There's no doubt about it, I-Tal have perfected their craft. This eleven song self-titled cassette is a fusion of Reggae, Rock, and Jazz. Cleanly recorded and splendidly produced, this release will please old fans as well as reach new ones. The only drawback is that less than half the tracks are original compositions and two are foolishly titled "Original Rocker 1" and "Original Rocker 2". But of the covers, the '60's remake of "Get Together" captures the feel of this brothers-in-arms tune. Oh, and yes, they did add USA to distinguish themselves from another band with a similar name...*Jim Benson.*

THE GODFATHERS
MORE SONGS ABOUT LOVE AND HATE
Epic Records

Well, we have embarked upon the third full Lp (of course, number one being more of a compilation-type record) from the Godfathers, and boy, is it a humdinger. The album ranges from upbeat New-Wave type Rock; a great example being the first promotional cut available, "She Gives Me Love", to the honkey-tonk "Walking Talking Johnny Cash Blues". One song that sticks out as being exceptional both lyrically and musically is "This Is Your Life" which is about pressure and feeling trapped. Other notable songs are "Pretty Girl", "How Low Is Low", and a slower-paced mournful love song called "Another You". This is a great album overall; the only complaint that I could possibly find is that it wasn't a double!..*Aaron Burke.*

WBWC

NEAR THE BEGINNING

TECHNO-POP: PART 3 OF A 3 PART SERIES

By 1977, Euro-disco could be heard all over the nation's dance floors and some times on the radio as well. Euro-disco was synthesized modern Dance-rock music with "spacey"and Progressive touches. It was often accompanied by a hard beat. This is also a working definition for a lot of late 1980's Techno-pop and modern Dance-rock music...from the Pop of Erasure to the powerful and underground progressiveness of Ministry.

Earler, we mentioned Italian producer Giorgio Moroder. He produced seven of Donna Summer's albums. If there is only one Donna Summer song that you are willing to listen to , I hope it will be her 1977 Hit "I Feel Love". It brought Euro-disco into the Top 10. Unlike most '70's Disco records this song plays pretty well even today.

If you're interested in checking out some of this great synthesized music, you might try to get hold of some of the recorded output of the prolofic French Disco producer Cerrone. He had no less that three albums in 1977. His excursions into the synthesized realm were always interesting. One song called "Supernature" deals in a science fiction-type setting with the reaction of mutant animals to the continued takeover and pollution of the land by Mankind.

Around 1977, Devo was beginning to make underground rumblings in Akron, Ohio. At about the same time a group whose stage makeup made them look like mechanical men recorded an album that was released in the U.S. in 1978. Their name was Tom N' Jerry's Rockets. Their album *ON THE ROAD AGAIN* features purposely distorted vocals and the kind of aggressive music that would become hallmarks of todays' harder-edged Techno bands.

In 1978, Mute Records put out their first release "Warm Leatherette/T.V.O.D" by the Normal (Actually, soon-to-be-Depeche Mode-producer Daniel Miller). The Normal, along with Gary Numan's first Lp which was recorded in 1978 ushered in the Modern era of Techno-pop. The Normal's single is particularly interesting since it combines elements of New Wave in the Techno proceedings. "Warm Leatherette" is minimalist in nature unlike the big booming production values found on the contemporary Euro-disco/Techno-pop releases.

The final record that we're going to examine to illustrate the historical links that today's Techno-pop and Techno-rock acts like Severed Heads, Front 242, Information Society, etc,... have to Rock-n-Roll's past is *NO. 1 IN HEAVEN* by Sparks which came out in 1979. Sparks is made up of the brotherly duo of Ron and Russell Mael. They had been putting out their comical and off-the-wall Rock since the early '70's. It had some very powerful and catchy tunes like the title track and "Tryouts For The Human Race".

Assistance in putting together this article was provided by Trevor Doucette, host of WBWC's 'Techno Pop Show' heard every Wednesday night from 11:00 p.m. until 2 a.m.

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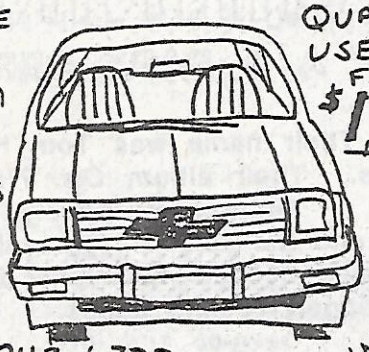

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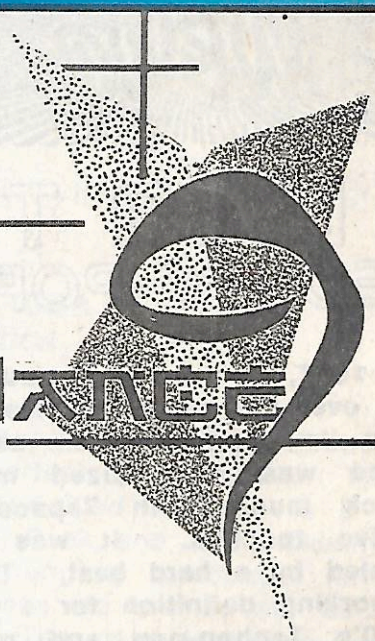

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